

BROOKLINE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR FLOODING

In case of flooding in your home, and or property, persons can take emergency sanitation measures to protect your health and safety.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANUP PROCEDURES:

CELLARS: If possible, wait for ground waters to drop below floor level, otherwise, drain or pump water from flooded cellars, being careful to avoid the collapse of walls caused by the pressure of the water saturated ground around the basement. Wear gloves to avoid contact with flood water and disinfection solution. Wash down the walls, floors, and other areas exposed to flood waters with hose stream and scrubbing brush; keep windows and doors open for ventilation during cleanup.

Disinfect the washed areas by applying a solution of bleach with a broom or white wash brush and allowing the solution to remain in contact for approximately 10 minutes.

The solution is prepared by adding 2 ounces of bleach to 5 gallons of water. Rinse with cold water as soon as possible to minimize staining. Any commercially available disinfectant can be used. Follow manufacturers directions.

FLOORS: Clear away mud and other debris as completely as possible and wash.

FLOOR COVERINGS: Remove rugs and carpets if necessary, flush with hose and squeeze, then wash with luke warm water containing a detergent. Rinse and dry in sun. **CAUTION:** Wool fibers will shrink more than synthetic materials.

FURNITURE: Clean and then wash metal and leather surfaces with mild soap and water. Wipe dry immediately. Some upholstery may be washed on the surface with soap and water then wiped dry. Expose to open air and sunshine.

CLOTHING: Clean all clothing by laundering or dry cleaning.

* Check with your insurance provider as you may have flood damage coverage which can provide for professional flood damage cleaning.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Gas and Electrical Services: Follow instructions of utility company, licensed plumber/gas fitter, licensed electrician and appliance service dealer concerning restoration of service. Be sure electrical appliances are dry and in good condition before using. DO NOT turn on or try to fix gas-fired units and electrical utilities that have become wet, seek a professional's help. If power is off due to flooding DO NOT enter any wet basement. Avoid contact with electrical fixtures when standing in water or on a damp floor. Keep children away from flooded basements.

If you have any questions about this, or emergency procedures, please call the

Brookline Health Department's Environmental Health Division at: 617-730-2306